

PATENT APP. SER. NO. 10/615,531  
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1714765

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE: APPLICATION OF:

HIROTAMI KOIKE, ET AL.

U.S. PAT. APP. SER. NO. 10/615,531

FILED: JULY 8, 2003

FOR: SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

EXAMINER: NGUYEN, KIET TUAN

GROUP ART UNIT: 2881

CONFIRMATION NO. 8208

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed with a Request for Continued Examination, after allowance and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the Request for Continued Examination. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration of relevant portions thereof by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

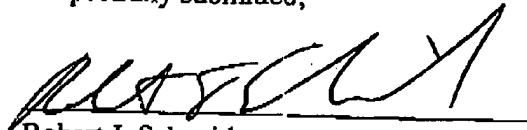
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Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees in connection with the filing of this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Schneider  
Reg. No. 27,383

Date: September 14, 2004  
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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 171-765	SERIAL NO. 10/615,531
	APPLICANTS KOIKE et al.	
	FILING DATE 07/08/2003	GROUP 2881

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE If Appropriate
	6,642,520	11/04/03	Kimura et al.	H01J	37/26	
	6,717,144	04/06/04	Kimura et al.	G01N	23/00	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

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